



GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne (TE-43)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2001 **Cost:** \$1.74 million
Project Area: 3,324 acres **Status:** Engineering and Design
Net Benefit after 20 Years: 366 acres
Project Type: Shoreline Protection

Location

The project is located in the Terrebonne basin, in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

In the past 20 years, as the efficiency of the Lower Atchafalaya River has decreased, Verrett subbasin flooding and Atchafalaya River flows via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) have increased. Deterioration of fresh and intermediate wetlands, particularly of the floating marshes in the upper Penchant basin, has been attributed to sustained elevated water levels. In addition, floating marshes in some areas have become directly exposed to increased circulation through unnatural connections formed where channel banks deteriorated.

Conversely, losses in the central Terrebonne Parish marshes have been attributed to the elimination of riverine inflow coupled with subsidence and altered hydrology from canal dredging that facilitated saltwater intrusion. Increased flow of the GIWW and wave pulses from navigation traffic are causing additional breakup and loss of floating marshes in unprotected areas.

Restoration Strategy

This project will restore critical lengths of deteriorated channel banks and stabilize/armor selected critical lengths of deteriorated channel banks with hard shoreline stabilization materials.

Progress to Date

Geotechnical soils investigation report is complete. Soils in the area are very soft and fluid.

This project is on Priority Project List 10.

For more project information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7816

Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources



Large mats of floating freshwater marsh, such as this one, detach from their point of origin and enter the GIWW through large breaches in the existing shoreline.



Concrete "H" pile/panel structures, similar to this one, will be installed at locations within the project area where shoreline erosion is critical. Soils with high amounts of organic material, which have poor strength, necessitated the use of a structure such as this.

